

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	15-AFC-01
Project Title:	Puente Power Project
TN #:	220409
Document Title:	Steven Nash Comments Oppose the Power Plant
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Steven Nash
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	7/26/2017 3:41:52 PM
Docketed Date:	7/26/2017

Comment Received From: Steven Nash

Submitted On: 7/26/2017

Docket Number: 15-AFC-01

Docket Number: 15-AFC-01

Docket Number: 15-AFC-01

Project Title: Puente Power Project

These facts are indisputable: the site is subject to sea-level rise, coastal inundation and flooding, tsunamis and seismic risk, and degradation of endangered species habitat. The community is largely unified against the project. The Oxnard City Council has stated this is an inappropriate land use at this location. The project should, at this point, be dead in the water. But it isn't, why?

Oxnard, as it has been pointed out by many speakers, is a predominantly Hispanic community. We do not have the resources or the expertise to fight a project such as the Puente Power Project that wealthier, "whiter" communities such as Santa Barbara, Montecito, Malibu or Thousand Oaks could marshal to stop similar projects in their towns. This is why it is always Oxnard that is asked to bear the brunt of environmentally-damaging uses such as power plants, landfills, recycling smelters and other heavy industry. This is why Oxnard is a "sacrifice zone". We want environmental justice for communities of color that have historically been asked to bear the brunt of polluting industrial uses. The air pollution from this proposed project will affect residents that already suffer from the adverse environmental consequences of multiple landfills, an EPA Superfund site, Class II injection wells, three existing coastal energy facilities and agricultural pesticide and fertilizer impacts.

Enough of this overt racism.

If for no other reason, the California Energy Commission should obey the moral imperative and deny the PPP. The pro-project Commissioners can spin this a million ways to Tuesday but the Oxnard community will know the real reason if the project is approved. It is not because the "facts" support the decisions because, quite simply, they don't. It will be because of the systemic and pervasive racism that says minority communities don't matter. They do not deserve the same consideration for the health, safety and welfare of its residents as do their richer, whiter neighbors. The Commissioners of the Energy Commission will make a decision that will impact the health of our community for decades. Do not turn your backs on the residents who have already paid in full for the greater good of the region.

To conclude I just want to point out the sheer hypocrisy in allowing outside special interests to determine local land use. We have told you over and over and over we don't want this on our beach. You cannot mitigate sea level rise and coastal flooding. You cannot mitigate the significant impact to endangered species. You cannot mitigate the significant air quality impacts and threat to local aviation. We have given you alternative sites. There exists alternative energy sources and storage technologies. The CEC is ignoring its core responsibilities by continuing to approve unneeded, outdated, polluting natural gas burning energy facilities in environmentally sensitive areas and economically disadvantaged communities of color that do not have the financial resources or expertise to fight either billion-dollar, out-of-state energy firms or in-state monopolistic energy providers that have corrupted the regulatory agencies.

By continuing to approve dirty, hydrocarbon-burning energy projects, the CEC is turning its back on global warming. Time is running out on our ability to slow climate change. With each new hydrocarbon-based power plant we are accelerating the cooking of our planet and the massively-disruptive forces that will be unleashed as a consequence of global warming. Our community wants clean, green, renewable energy projects. No matter how NRG and the hydrocarbon-based energy industry spins it, natural gas is neither clean, green nor renewable.

We want environmental justice for communities of color that have historically been asked to bear the brunt of polluting industrial uses. The air pollution from this proposed project will affect residents that already suffer from the adverse environmental consequences of multiple landfills, an EPA Superfund site, Class II injection wells, three existing coastal energy facilities and agricultural pesticide and fertilizer impacts.

Oxnard has borne the burden of environmental degradation for too long. Our residents are tired of being exploited because of their social class and skin color.

Thank you, Commissioners Janea Scott and Karen Douglas, for coming to our community to take comments on the FSA.

Steve Nash
Oxnard, CA
805-485-3626
mrswn@hotmail.com